



A Public Health Approach to Improve Graduation Outcomes Using RAAPS-PH

And Implications for Wellness Planning in Schools

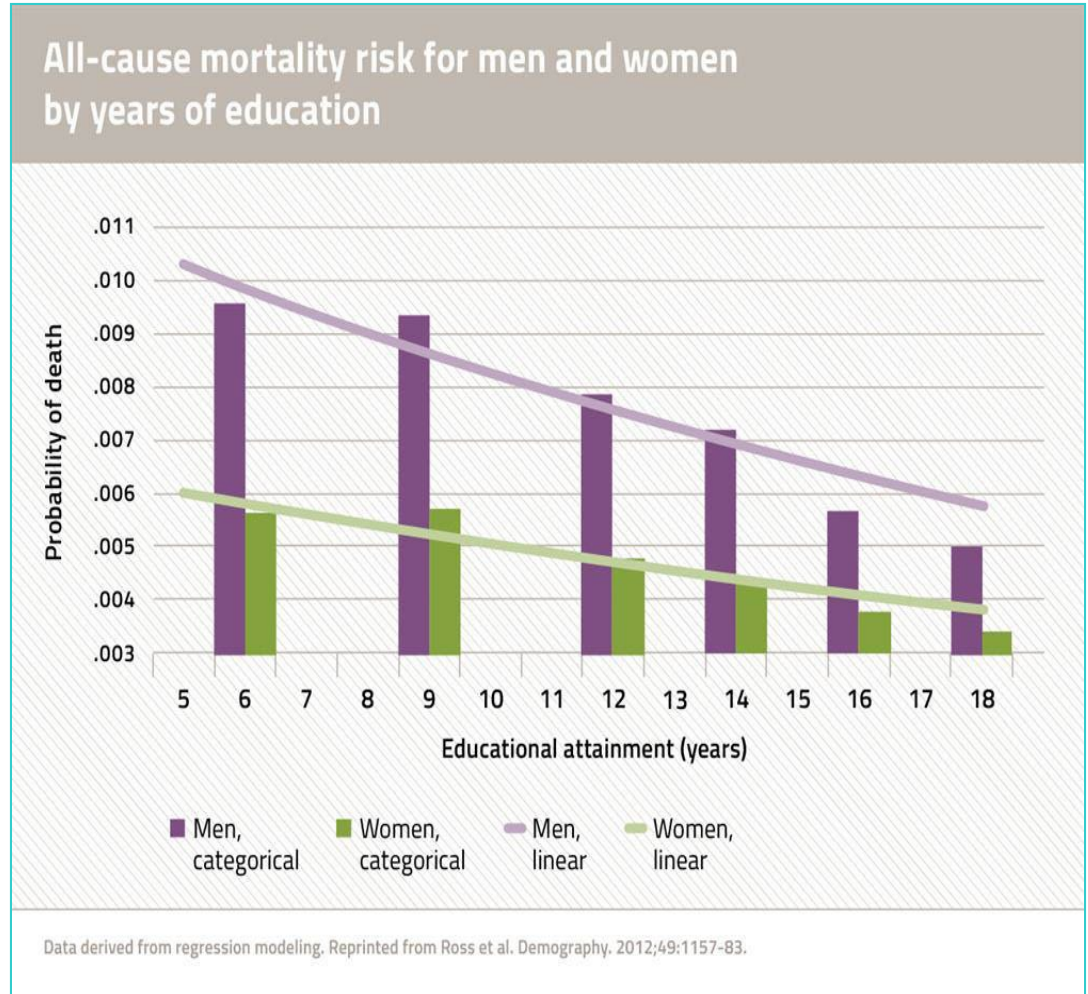
Presented by Leslie Sessom-Parks, MSW

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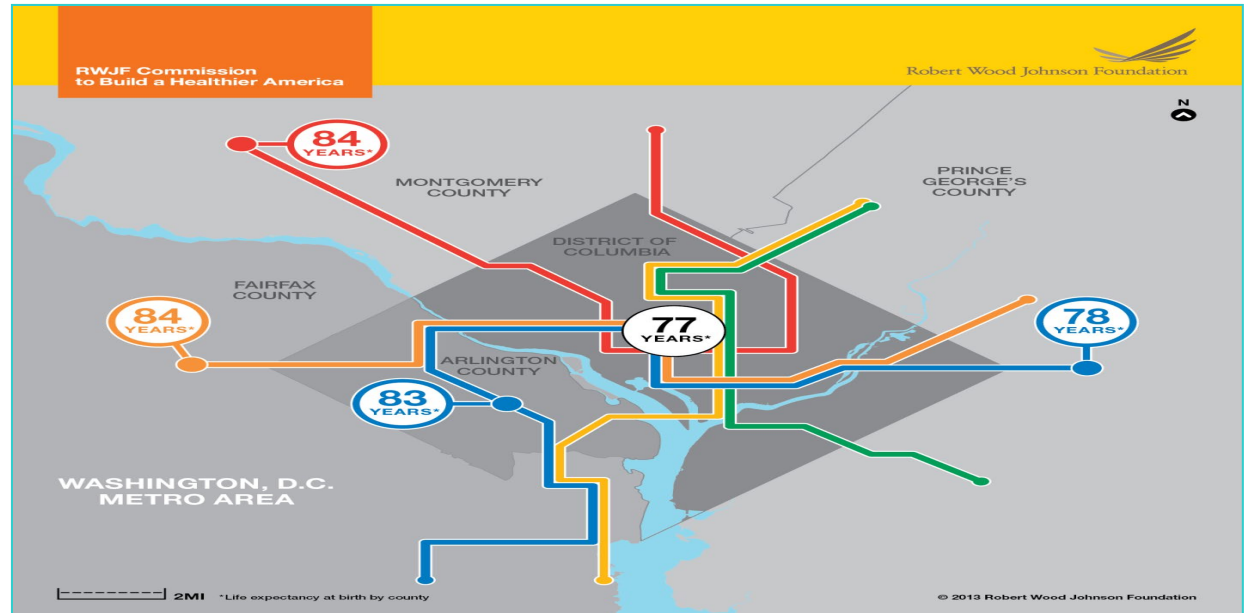
Source: USDA Wellness Toolkit

Graduation is a Public Health Priority

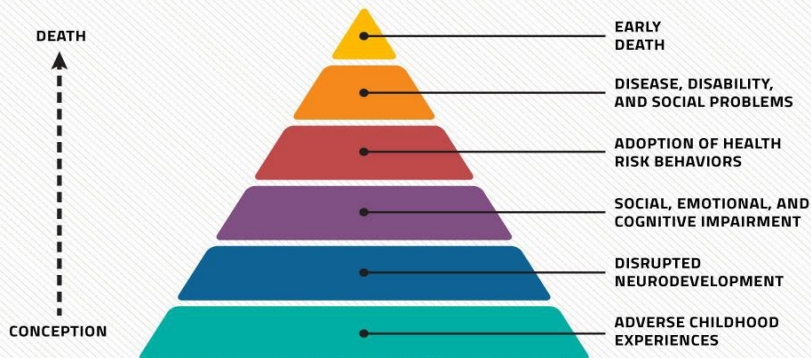


Source: IOM

Social Determinants of Health (and Education)

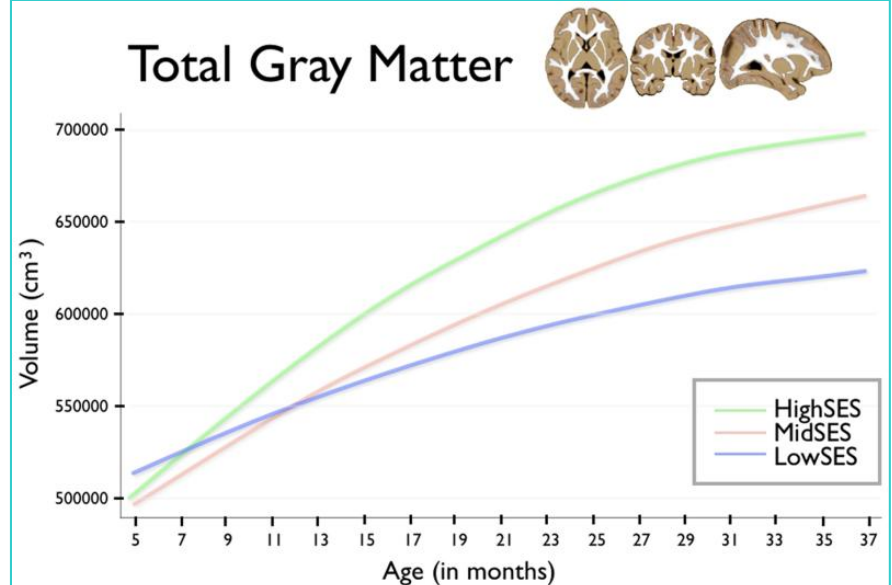


How Adverse Childhood Experiences Can Influence Health Throughout Life



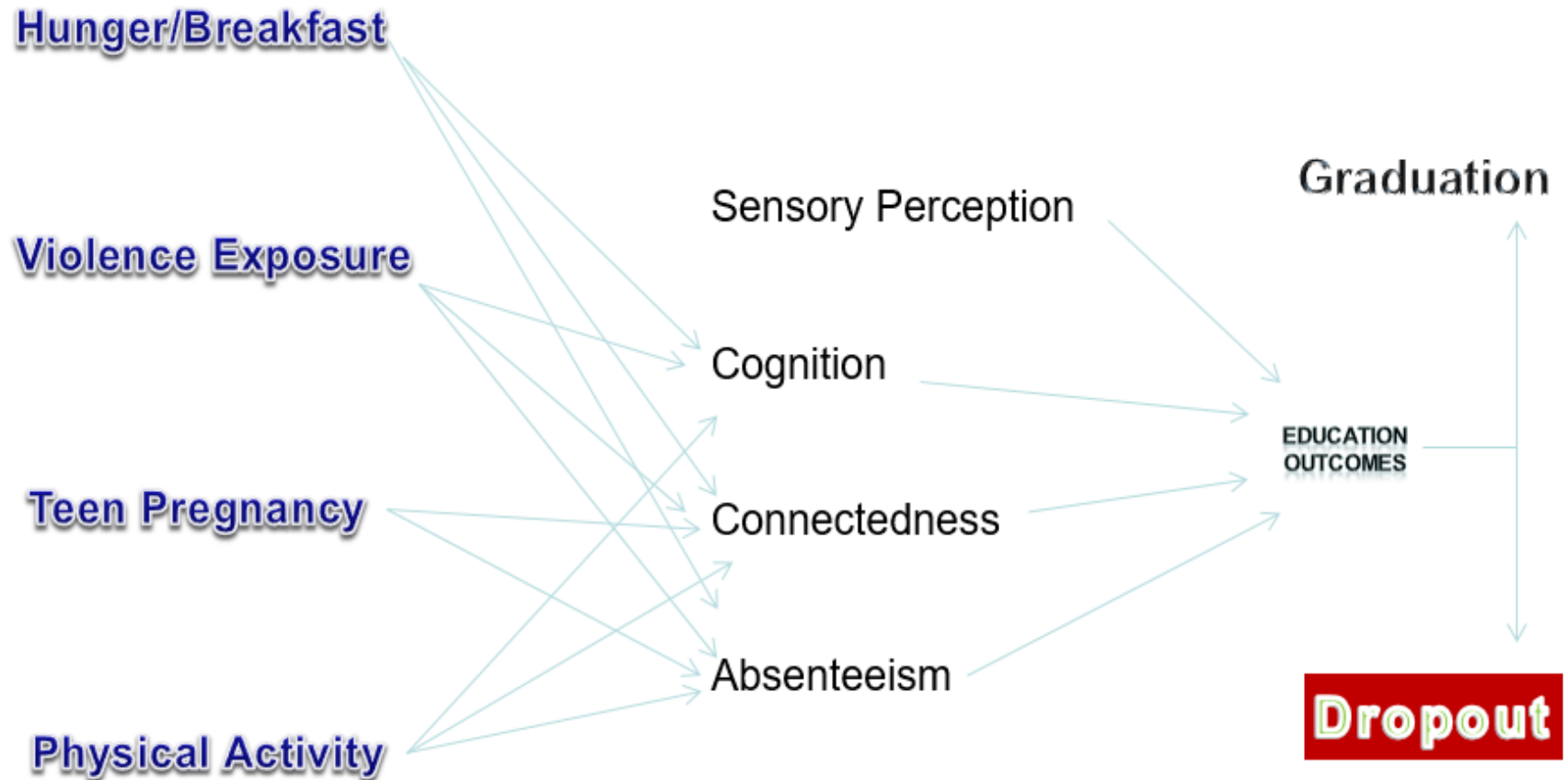
Adapted from Felitti et al., 1998 and Whitfield CL at <http://www.cbwhit.com/ACEstudy.htm>.

Total Gray Matter



SDOH Pathways to School Dropout

Common Educationally Relevant Health Disparities for Urban Youth



A Program to Improve Graduation

- **Phase I**

- **Online Learning**

- Self-paced modules
- Instructor-led classes
- Continuing education credits

- **Phase II**

- **Capacity Building**

- Assessment
- Intensive technical assistance
- Action planning on 3 levels
(student, school, school system)
- Evaluation

- **15 Urban Schools**

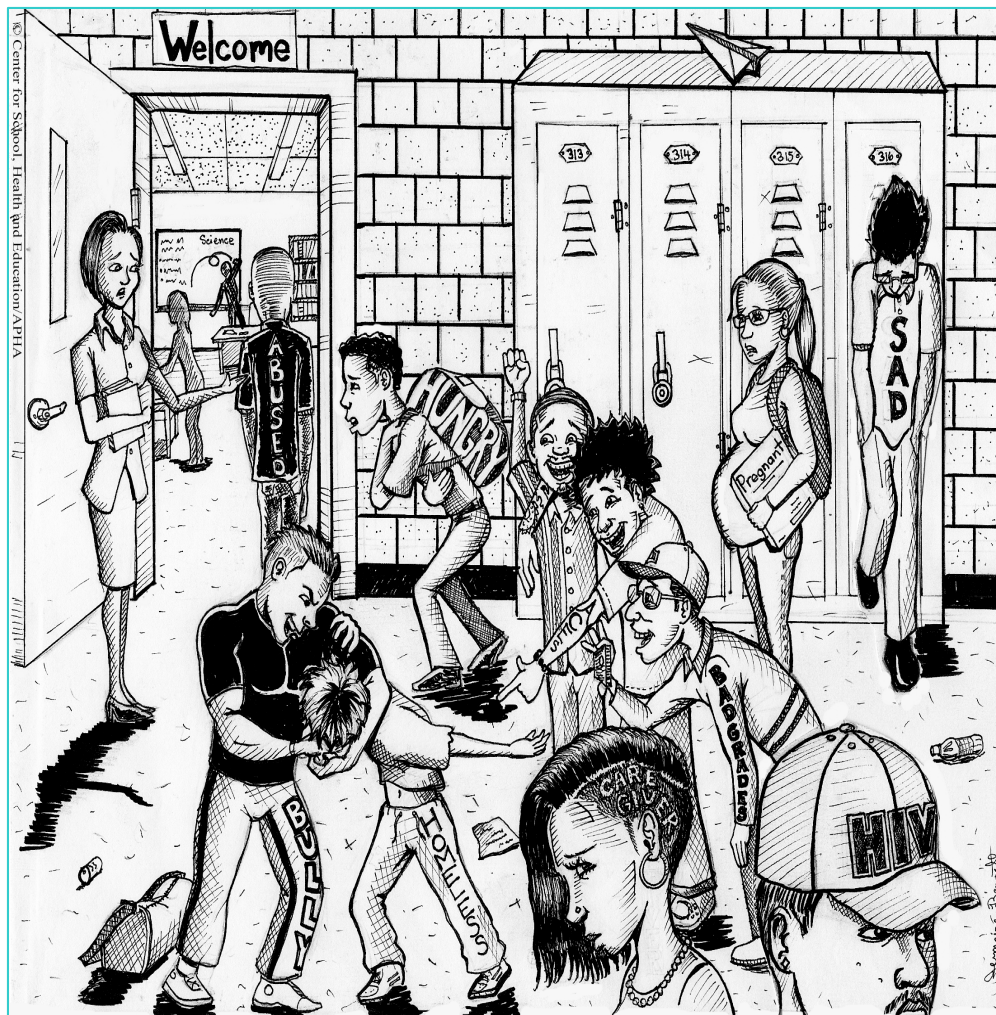
- **Several States**

- California
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Michigan
- Maryland
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Virginia

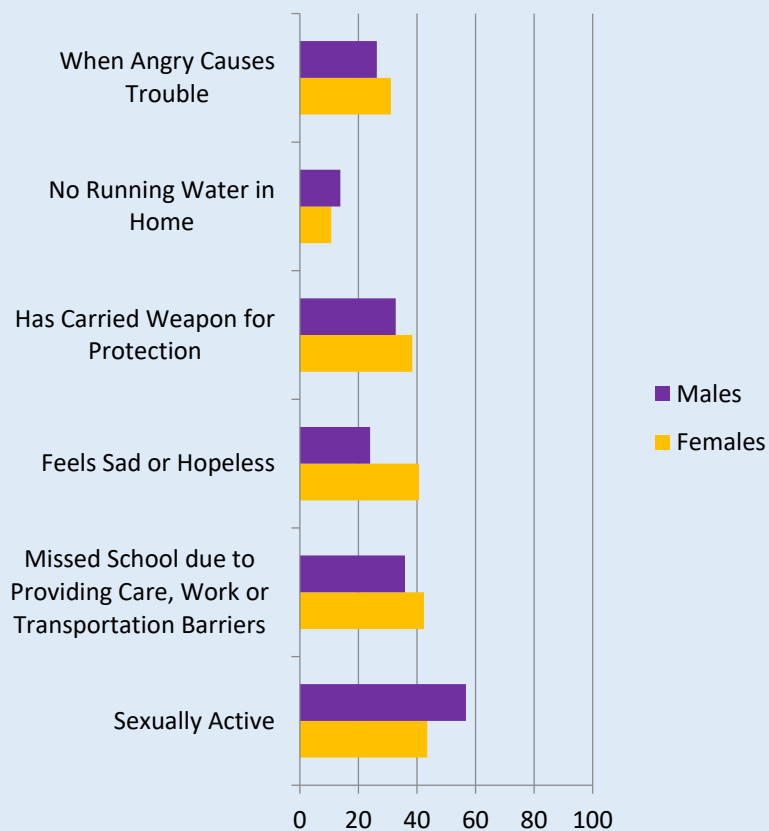
- **Over 600 School Staff**

- **Over 15,000 Students**

SDOH Risk Assessment



Selected RAAPS-PH Findings Detroit High School



The RAAPS-Public Health Assessment Tool

“In many cases, the survey confirmed what we had expected. For example, we knew hunger was an issue. This validated our suspicions with hard data. We found out 10% of our students hadn’t eaten since we fed them last.”

- High School Principal

RAAPS-PH identifies SDOH affecting health, well being and graduation rates:

- Missed school due to providing care, work or transportation
- Academic success and difficulty reading
- Asthma
- Basic needs, like food, water and electricity
- Homelessness
- Pregnancy
- Discrimination

Implemented Interventions

Family and Community Engagement

- Cooking demonstrations
- Healthy eating & active living education
- Catalog of local community relief services

Social and Emotional Climate

- De-escalation room
- Social & coping skills curriculum
- Peer juries & mentoring
- Movement breaks
- Staff self-care & well-being

Life Skills Development

- Mock interviewing
- Internships
- Career shadowing
- Experiential learning credits
- Advocacy & leadership

Unmet Needs and Social Services

- Food pantry
- Clothing pantry
- School garden
- Free & reduced-price lunch
- On-site showers & laundry facilities

Key Results

Program Participant Outcomes

- Prepared to address the social, emotional & behavioral health of disadvantaged school-aged youth
 - 71% - Much better
 - 29% - Somewhat better
- Prepared to use needs assessment results to set priorities (student, school-wide, school system)
 - 50% - Much better
 - 44% - Somewhat better
- Prepared to implement school-wide strategies that promote resiliency & healthier management of social stressors among students
 - 44% - Much better
 - 50% - Somewhat better

Expected School Level Outcomes

- Increased attendance rates
- Decreased suspension and expulsion rates
- Reduced health risks
- Increased graduation rates

Implications for Wellness Planning & Practices

Provides an assessment tool to plan and coordinate policy and practice at school/system level

- Identify needed school-based services
- Enhance social and emotional learning processes and activities
- Improve school climate
- Engage and inform the community
- Advances equity

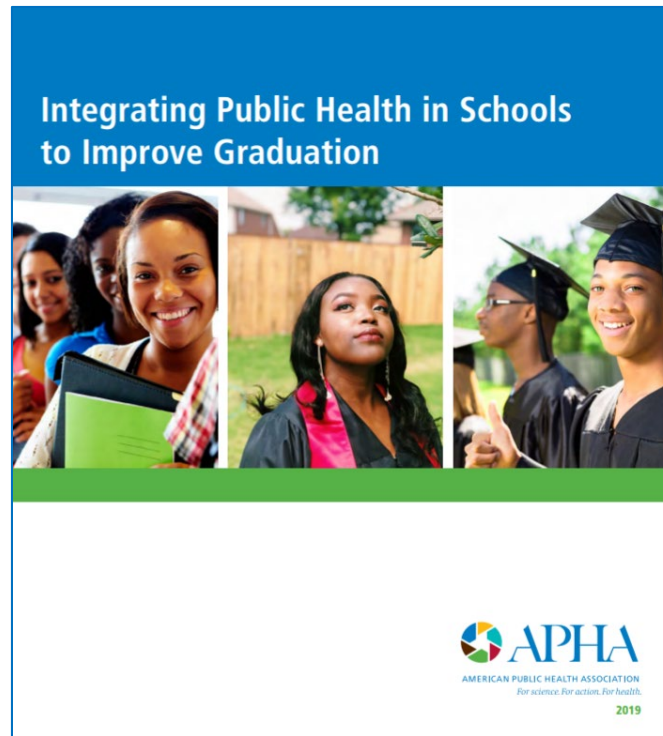
Provides an assessment tool to identify individual student risk

- Provide/refer health services
- Provide/refer counseling or social services

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC Model)



For More Information



<http://schoolbasedhealthcare.org/our-impact>

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Selected Resources

Basch (2011). *Healthier students are better learners: a missing link in school reforms to close the achievement gap.*

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21923870/>

Center of Society and Health (2015). *Why Education Matters to Health: Exploring the Causes.*

<https://societyhealth.vcu.edu/work/the-projects/why-education-matters-to-health-exploring-the-causes.html>

Hurt & Betancourt (2015). *Effect of socioeconomic status disparity on child language and neural outcome: how early is early?*

<https://www.nature.com/articles/pr2015202>

Institute of Medicine (2015). *Exploring Opportunities for Collaboration between Health and Education to Improve Population Health (Chapter 2).*

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18979/exploring-opportunities-for-collaboration-between-health-and-education-to-improve-population-health>

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2013). *Commission to Build a Healthier America .*

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/infographics/washington-dc-map.html>



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